PRESS RELEASE

U.S.-supported e-Budgeting system holds potential for improving budget planning and analysis in Macedonia

Skopje – The administrative burden for both the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and ministries preparing budgets can be expected to be greatly reduced, with the implementation of an electronic system that will be developed for the MOF in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Treasury.

USAID's e-Gov Project and the MOF signed an agreement to start work on developing an online solution for preparing and monitoring the budget of the Republic of Macedonia. The e-Budgeting software application will be financed by USAID, part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia.

 "This will be a sophisticated system that offers the opportunity to improve the transparency of the budget process. With the use of the new system, preparing and submitting the budget by the line ministries can be quick and accurate," says Jerker Torngren, USAID e-Gov Project Chief of Party. "The system will also provide the Ministry of Finance with a modern tool for better analysis, planning and monitoring of budgets. This includes the ability to model budget scenarios based on alternative policy and economic options."

The system is capable of processing an enormous amount of data quickly and securely.

"The new system will enable the Ministry of Finance to prepare and distribute budget circulars online. Each budget user can complete and legally submit budget requests online using the newly approved digital certificate," according to the Minister of Finance Nikola Popovski. "Once the budget has been adopted by the Parliament, the system will also allow the Ministry to monitor budget spending more effectively."

The software development is an activity of USAID's e-Gov Project, (www.e-Gov.org.mk), which aims to help the Republic of Macedonia increase the efficiency and transparency of public sector management and open new channels for doing business in an open and secure manner, making Macedonia more attractive to the investment community.

The official tender to hire a software development company and a detailed system description can be found on www.e-Gov-org.mk.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than $450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth $30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit http://macedonia.usaid.gov